

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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S E C R E T VIENNA 2734

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: LUNCHEON CONFERENCE

DICHEV, CHIEF OF BULGARIAN DELEGATION

1. US REP HAD LUNCH WITH DICHEV AT HIS INVITATION.

2. THE FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED.

3. BULGARIA IS INTERESTED IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT
IN THE NEAR TERM--AT LEAST BY THE END OF 1974.

4. WHEN US REP SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT IN 1974
WAS ONLY POSSIBLE IF THE PARTIES WERE WILLING TO DEAL WITH
ONLY PART OF THE PROBLEM IN THE FIRST PHASE, DICHEV
SAID THAT THE BULGARIANS CAN UNDERSTAND THAT IT MAY

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BE NECESSARY FOR THE US/SOVIET FORCES TO BE REDUCED

FIRST, PROVIDING SUCH A REDUCTION INCLUDES A COMMITMENT BY THE WEST EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE REDUCTIONS OF SPECIFIED AMOUNTS IN A SECOND PHASE.

5. AIR AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST BE COVERED BY THE REDUCTION AGREEMENT BUT THE ACTUAL REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE LATER. AIR AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT. IT CANNOT VISUALIZE A WAR IN EUROPE WITHOUT USE OF BOTH AIR AND NUCLEARS. DUE TO THE RAPID ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE WORLD WAR II, BULGARIA TODAY HAS BECOME MUCH MORE CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH CENTRAL EUROPE AND WOULD BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAR IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

6. DICHEV INQUIRED SPECIFICALLY AS TO WHETHER THE US BELIEVED THAT THE GERMANS SHOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES. US REP SAID THAT THE US WAS OPPOSED TO ANY GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS BECAUSE GERMAN REDUCTIONS WERE OF A DIFFERENT CHARACTER THAN THE FORCE WITHDRAWALS WHICH WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE US AND SOVIETS AND THAT ACCORDINGLY IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE GERMANS TO REDUCE UNTIL A SECOND PHASE. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT SURE THAT THE GERMANS WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A SECOND PHASE WHICH MOVED TO A COMMON CEILING. DICHEV SAID THAT THE USE VIEW ON GERMAN REDUCTIONS WAS IMPORTANT.

7. DICHEV BELIEVES THAT THE INFORMAL SESSIONS LIMITED TO DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ARE USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCE IN STATUS OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

8. THE EAST RECOGNIZES THE WEST'S GENUINE CONCERN WITH THE FACT THAT THE EAST HAS MANY MORE TANKS AND GROUND FORCES, BUT THE WEST MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE EAST IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WEST'S AIR AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

9. THE WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS WILL MEET IN THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 27. HE ASSUMED, BUT WAS NOT SURE,
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THAT KHLESTOV WOULD REPORT ON THE MARCH 25TH INFORMAL SESSION. HE DID NOT KNOW THAT ANOTHER SESSION HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1.

10. THE WARSAW PACT MAY HAVE A MINISTERS MEETING IN MAY OR JUNE.

11. DICHEV PRESSED SEVERAL EASTERN THEMES INCLUDING

(A) THE EAST HAS SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY BUT THE WEST
IS ADHERING STRICTLY TO ITS ORIGINAL POSITION;
(B) SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT
FIRST STEP; AND (C) EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS
ARE A HIGHLY EQUITABLE WAY IN WHICH TO PROCEED.HUMES

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